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STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Dirk Kempthorne, Governor
C. Stephen Allred, Director

October 1, 2001

Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
Department of Energy
Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Assistant Secretary Roberson:

I appreciate your letter of September 25, 2001. Your assurance that Department of Energy (DOE) is willing to move forward to resolve the Pit 9 issues is very helpful. We also believe that the conceptual plan developed at our recent meeting can provide a basis to move forward to a resolution. Your participation, and that of Frazer Lockhart and Ellen Livingston, was particularly beneficial. Idaho wants to be in a position to support and build on the mission and activities at INEEL. However, as you realize, we have to continue to assure that the other sectors of our economy are fully protected and that other important values are honored.

Specifically, your letter describes the conceptual technical approach to the extent that discussions took place. As you and I discussed briefly by phone, there are still several issues that were not discussed, or which are dependent upon further technical and schedule proposals for DOE. As was discussed at the meeting, and on our phone conversation, the state will need meaningful milestone commitments that describe physical work actions as part of the settlement, and agreements will need to take into account the time delay and penalties, if any, between the current ROD and a modified ROD. We also expect a resolution to recognize the relationship between Pit 9 and the cleanup decision for the larger buried waste area, as well as other DOE commitments to the State.

We appreciate the cooperative and proactive role your office has taken in dealing with this issue.

Sincerely,


C. Stephen Allred
Director

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cc: Mike Gearheard, Environmental Protection Agency